

# Sheriff-Elect Mason completes Academy

Mack Mason successfully completed the 160-hour sheriffs-elect training program on Friday, Dec. 14. Sheriff-Elect Mason and 43 other newly-elected sheriffs were required by the state to report to the month-long academy immediately after the General Election to be trained in topics they will face as the chief law enforcement officer of their country.

Mason and the other newly-elected sheriffs attended the training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. Middle District Assistant U.S. Attorney Chuck Byrd gave the keynote graduation address and presented diplomas to the graduates in a formal graduation ceremony on the last day of the academy



Sheriff-Elect Mack Mason session.

The intense 160-hour curriculum included classroom instruction emphasizing the duties of the chief law enforcement officer of their county. The State Constitution

and the Official Code of Georgia specify many duties of the Office of Sheriff, including service as jail officers, court officers, law enforcement officers, and administrators. Class sessions introduced new sheriffs to these responsibilities while state and national experts also lectured the sheriffs-elect on the latest issues concerning jails, civil procedure, personnel, and liability issues.

"The Office of Sheriff, an office of great dignity, is tasked with many duties and responsibilities. I want to commend Sheriff Mason and this entire group for their commitment to perform their duties to the best of their ability in order to serve and protect the citizens of their counties," said

J. Terry Norris, Executive Director of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association.

The course was initiated by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association in partnership with the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council whom drafted legislation in 1976 requiring every newly elected sheriff to complete this course during the first term of office. The training has evolved from a voluntary, two-day seminar in 1960 into an intense, four-week curriculum required by law. Georgia was the first state to require training for newly-elected sheriffs, although many states have since passed similar measures. Today marks the completion of the ninth sheriffs-elect academy since the 1976 mandate.

## Tourney...continued from Page 1A

throughout North Georgia by raining down threes on an 11-0 Towns County Lady Indian squad in a 65-56 victory.

The Lady Panthers overcame a 17-4 deficit and opened up a 55-39 lead as they held off Towns in the final minutes.

Zollinger, Jeanelle Arnold, and Hannah Hughes each scored in double-figure in the win.

Union County fell victim to Dawson County, 69-35 in the finals after the Lady Tigers outscored Union 30-5 in the second half.

Arnold led the Lady Panthers with 14 points and 2 steals.

The Panthers got off to a slow start, only scoring 39 points in their 10-point victory over Polk County, Tenn.

Odom led all scorers with 20 points and added a team high 4 steals and 3 assists.

Union then suffered its first loss of the season to Murphy, NC on Day Two, ending a five-game winning streak over the Bulldogs.

Union County nearly overcame a 20-point hole in the final 6 minutes but came up just short at 73-68.

Odom had another stellar performance, leading the way with 27 points - 18 in the first half.

Union did make up for its loss on Saturday by knocking off Hayesville, NC 62-56.



The Panthers withstood the Yellow Jacket pressure defense and rallied from seven down in the fourth thanks to a 19-3 run.

Odom continued to dominate, putting up 29 points and picking up 3 steals.

McCombs poured in 22 points - 10 coming in the fourth and final quarter.

Union County's former Region 8-AA rivals, the Dawson Tigers, swept the tourna-

ment championships.

The Tigers blew past Murphy 62-22 to complete the Dawson sweep in the Battle of the States tournament.

The Tigers moved into Class AAA this season, thus ending the annual rival games with the Union County girls and boys teams.

The Union - Dawson rivalry was one of the best in North Georgia high school basketball.

Coach Steve Sweat and his Lady Tigers were a perennial powerhouse in the early 90s, before his departure for West Hall High School.

Upon his return, he has rebuilt the Lady Tigers from the ground up. At 12-1, they appear to be the team to beat in Region 7-AAA.

Thad Burgess' Tigers are the team to beat in Region 7-AAA on the boys side.



Above: The Union County Lady Panthers finished second at the Battle of the States Christmas Tournament. Union County enters the new year at 8-4 and opens Region 8-AA play on Saturday.

Below: The Panthers suffered their first loss of the season but bounced back with a nice 62-56 victory over Hayesville, NC. The Panthers also open Region 8-AA play on Saturday as both Union County teams play host to the Greene County Tigers at 7 p.m. Thursday, both teams travel to Murphy, NC where the boys look for retribution after the Bulldogs handed Union its only loss of the season last Friday at the Battle of the States. Photos by Todd Forrest.

## Union County Tea Party Patriots meeting announcement

The Union County Tea Party Patriots January meeting will be held the second Thursday of January, the 10th, at the Blairsville Civic Center at 7 p.m. Our keynote speaker will be Mr. James F. Davis. Mr. Davis is a forensic (historical) economist, international banker, and educator, and will deliver a presentation on contemporary financial failures in other countries and their parallels to our current economy, and, how we might best prepare for a similar emergency in America. A question and answer session will follow. We suggest attendees bring pen and paper. NTUm2Z4JCA